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U.S. Officer Charged in Crash



Captain Accused of Negligent Homicide

Lt. Col. Dan Rogers, judge advocate for the 314 Airlift Wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, Ark., announced that Capt. Darron A. Haughn has been charged with dereliction of duty and negligent homicide. (Mike Wintroath/AP Photo)

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 17 — The Air Force today brought charges against an officer who commanded a C-130E cargo plane during an aborted landing in Kuwait last year in which three U.S. servicemen were killed.

Charges of dereliction of duty and negligent homicide were brought against Capt. Darron A. Haughn by Brig. Gen. Richard J. Casey, commander of the 43rd Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., the Air Force announced.

Haughn is assigned to the 463rd Airlift Group at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Casey was appointed to review the results of the accident investigation. The charges he brought today will be delivered to Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul J. Fletcher, whose options range from taking no action against Haughn to appointing an investigation officer under Article 32 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which could result in a general court-martial.

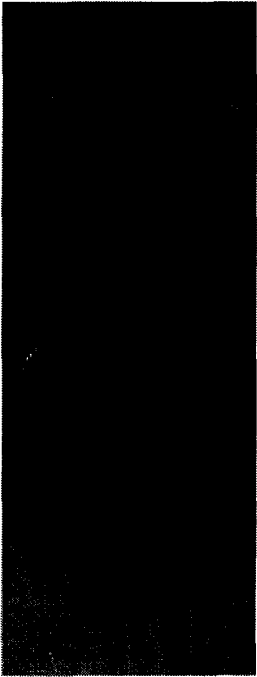
Pilot Error Found

The C-130 made an aborted landing on Dec. 10, 1999, in Kuwait. The three men who were killed were hit by landing gear that punctured the inside of the fuselage, the Air Force determined.

In April the Air Force determined that the three deaths resulted from pilot and crew error.

The air crew failed to follow procedures and made an improper approach to a runway, Air Force officials

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said. The pilot didn't keep an eye on instruments and became disoriented, not realizing how close the plane was to the ground or how far it was from the runway at Al Jaber Air Base southwest of Kuwait City.■

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